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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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08/880,665 06/23/97 HASEGAWA

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WM01/0213

EXAMINER

HELEGOTT & KARAS
EMPIRE STATE BUILDING 60TH FLOOR
NEW YORK NY 10118-0110

NGUYEN, S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2683

DATE MAILED: 02/13/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
08/880,665

Applicant(s)

Hasegawa

Examiner
Simon D Nguyen

Group Art Unit
2683



Responsive to communication(s) filed on Nov 30, 2000

This action is **FINAL**.

Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

Claim(s) 1-16 is/are allowed.

Claim(s) 17, 18, 23-27, 29-33, and 36 is/are rejected.

Claim(s) 19-22, 28, 34, and 35 is/are objected to.

Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is approved disapproved.

The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

All Some* None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

received.

received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

Interview Summary, PTO-413

Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 17-18, 23-27, 29-33, and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meier (5,673,031) in view of Tanaka (5,845,212).

Regarding claims 17, 26, 33, and 36, Meier discloses a radio system including a plurality of base stations (fig.1) in which a mobile station selects a base station to which a request for a channel is to be issued (column 6 lines 15-24), based on an order of priority of a plurality of base stations (column 5 lines 27-30, 40-50), wherein the base station forming a radio zone that overlaps radio zones formed by other base stations (column 5 lines 36-40), and wherein the selected base station chooses to respond by transmitting a message to the terminal that the channel is currently clear to send data (column 6 lines 20-24). It is noted that the mobile station 10 inherently has a control means for selecting a base station. However, Bailey fails to teach that the above information included in announcement information.

Tanaka discloses a cellular system (fig.2) in which an announcement information is transmitted from base stations 12a-12c to a mobile station 11 (column 2 lines 15-50). It would

have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the teaching of Tanaka in the cellular system of Bailey. The motivation for using the teaching of Tanaka in the cellular system of Meier being that it provides a new way to receive a message by announcing by voice which forces a user to pay more attention.

Regarding claim 18, the Meier' roaming terminal is inherent to have a receiver for receiving the information including a priority (column 5 lines 1-10, 20-50) and a transmitter for issuing a request for a message channel to the base station selected by the terminal (column 6 lines 12-25).

Regarding claims 27 , it is noted that the mobile station of either Meier and Tanaka are inherent to equip with a transmitting and receiving section which is well known in the art.

Regarding claim 29, Meier discloses that the roaming terminal determining whether the reception level is equal to or exceeds a predetermined level in selection a base station that enable a request for a message channel (column 5 lines 1-11).

Regarding claims 23-25 and 30-32, the examiner takes official notice that it is well known in the cellular art that in order for the mobile station to access the system and before choosing a base station, it requests a message channel and the message channel is switched form one to another in the event of a handover of a call. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the mobile access the system by requesting a messaging channel in the system of Meier and Tanaka.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 19-22, 28, 34-35 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the

base claim and any intervening claims.

Regarding claims 19 and 28, the prior art discloses numerous measuring means for measuring a reception level in a reception level determining channel in the mobile stations of a communication system. However, the prior art of record failed to disclose the measuring means for measuring a reception level in a descending order of priority of the plurality of base station.

Regarding claim 21-22 and 34-35, the prior art of record discloses numerous arranging means for ordering the information. However, the prior art of record failed to disclose an arranging means relating to reception level determining channels in a descending order of priority.

Regarding claim 20, this claim is objected as being dependent upon dependent claim that has been objected.

4. Claims 1-16 are allowed.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claims 1, 8-9, and 16, the prior art of record failed to disclose a announcing means for generating and broadcasting information including the order of priority assigned to radio zones wherein the order of priority being assigned in accordance with a probability density given to each of the plurality of radio zones.

Regarding claims 2-7, the prior art of record failed to specifically disclose an announcing means for transmitting announcement information which includes identification information for identifying radio channels, wherein the identification information being arranged in the announcement information according to respective positions in the hierarchy of overlapping zones.

Regarding claims 10-15, these claims are allowed as being dependent upon independent claims that have been allowed.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 26-33 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Simon Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 308-1116. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Trost, can be reached on (703) 308-5318.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 308-6306, (for formal communications intended for entry)

or:

(703) 308-6296, (for informal or draft communications,

please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered response should be brought to Crystal Park II,
2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Simon Nguyen

February 6, 2001

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Simon Nguyen". The "S" is capitalized and the "N" is lowercase. The "y" in "Nguyen" has a long vertical stroke.

Lee Nguyen
Primary Examiner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lee Nguyen 2/8/01". The "L" in "Lee" is capitalized, and the "N" in "Nguyen" is lowercase. The date is written in a standard numerical format.